

# Augusta Regional Transportation Study TRANSPORTATION NEWS

Spring 2004

## WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

In October 2003, the Augusta-Richmond County Planning Commission, Columbia County Planning & Development Department, and Aiken County Planning & Development Department began the process to assess the transportation needs of the Augusta-Richmond region and set forth transportation programs, policies, and improvement projects necessary to address those needs over a 20-year period. Transportation issues including congestion, public transportation, biking and walking, air quality, and infrastructure improvements will be evaluated.

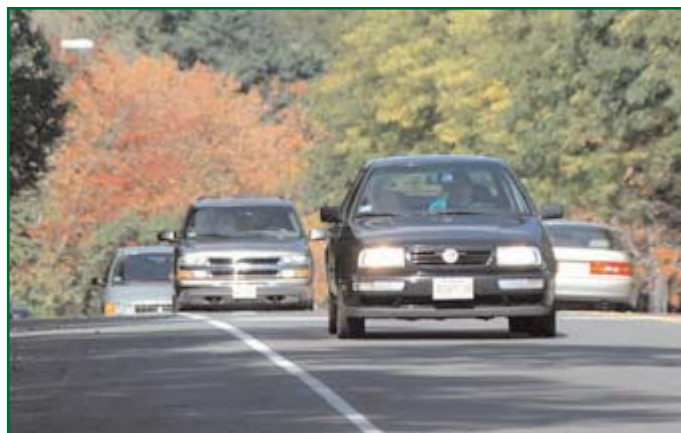
The purpose of the 2030 Plan update is to update the Augusta Regional Transportation Study 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan to the year 2030. The 2015 Plan was initially adopted in 1997. Since this time, the Plan has undergone two subsequent updates in an effort to comply with federal planning regulations. Planning partners within Augusta-Richmond County, Aiken County, Columbia County, and Edgefield County, as well as the general public, are invited to assist the study team in the decision-making process.

## GET INVOLVED

Public participation methods have been specifically designed to aide in your understanding of major study tasks, keep you abreast of project advancement, and solicit your input. Therefore, you will have a variety of opportunities to become informed and share your opinion. Methods to get involved in the study process are listed below.

**Talk with the project team** at community events in your area. The project team will set up booths at certain community events as additional opportunities to reach citizens that are possibly unaware of study efforts and unable to attend public meetings. These events will potentially take place at church services, community fairs, the Arts in the Heart of Augusta Festival, and school events. Check the web page for upcoming events.

**Clicking on the study's web page** will allow you to read basic information on the study such as a brief background, progress reports, projected schedule, and public meeting announcements. Study information is accessible at [www.augusta.gov/departments/planning\\_zoning/trans\\_arts.html](http://www.augusta.gov/departments/planning_zoning/trans_arts.html).



Send us your comments regarding transportation issues and concerns. Comment forms will be distributed at each public outreach activity and will be available on the study's web page. You also can send comments and questions any time throughout the study process.

**Join the mailing list** to receive newsletters, meeting announcements, and other project information. If you would like to be included on this list, please send your name and mailing address to [pdecamp@augustaga.gov](mailto:pdecamp@augustaga.gov).

**Attend a public meeting** in one of three locations closest to your neighborhood or place of employment. The first round of meetings is scheduled for April 12th and 13th. The meeting schedule is as follows:

### Monday, April 12

Evans Government Center Auditorium  
630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Building A  
Evans, Georgia 30809  
Time: 5:30 - 7:30 PM

### Tuesday, April 13

Aiken Municipal Building - Conference Center  
214 Park Avenue, SW  
Aiken, SC 29801  
Time: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
*and*  
Augusta Civic Center  
601 7th Street, Meeting Room C  
Augusta, GA 30901  
Time: 5:30 - 7:30 PM



## STUDY PROCESS

The study process is expected to be completed within a 12-month timeframe. During this time, the study team will conduct four major tasks. An extensive public involvement program will take place in conjunction with these major technical efforts.

### Establish Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives will be created to guide development of the study. The study team has taken a first attempt in refining existing goals and objectives of the 2015 Plan. However, the public will play an integral role in helping the study team refine these goals and objectives. During the first round of public meetings, the public will be asked to review draft goals and objectives and provide their input. This information will be documented and later used by the study team to guide selection of improvement projects.

### Data Collection and Analysis

The study team will collect and review data such as congestion and air pollution levels, that will help determine which transportation

needs and concerns are immediate or future priorities for the Augusta region. The public will have the opportunity to review significant study area demographics such as current and projected population and employment figures. This demographic information allows the study team to more accurately plan for changes that will occur in the region and take measures to ensure existing problems will not worsen in the future.

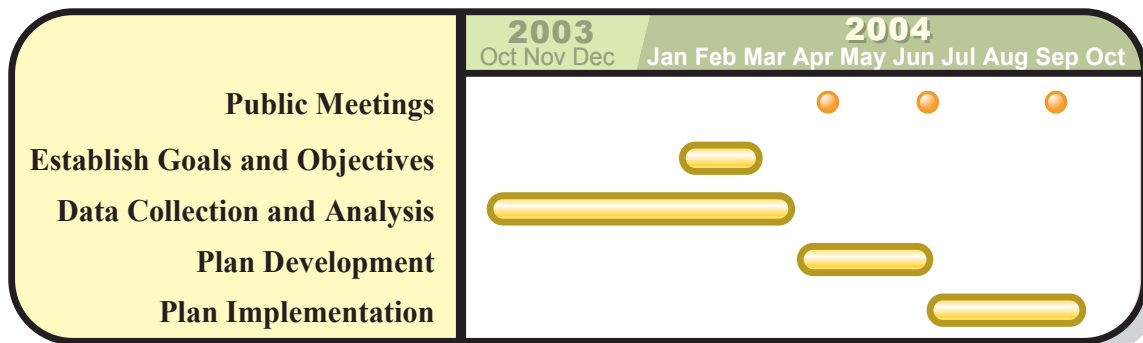
### Plan Development

Based upon data collection and analysis efforts, the study team will create an initial list of projects, policies, and programs to be implemented through the year 2030. The general public and planning partners within Augusta-Richmond, Aiken County and Columbia County will review this list and help fine tune the Plan.

### Plan Implementation

An implementation schedule will be developed to identify when projects should be initiated and completed. This schedule will serve as a guide for the region.

## STUDY SCHEDULE



**Augusta Regional Transportation Study**  
 c/o URS  
 400 Northpark Town Center  
 1000 Abernathy Road, Suite 900  
 Atlanta, GA 30328